

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 3-10, 13 and 15-18 are amended and claims 19 and 20 are added. Support for the features recited in claim 19 can be found, at least, in Applicants' Fig. 3 and support for the features recited in claim 20 can be found, at least, on page 32, lines 2-14 of Applicants' specification.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Culler in the August 30, 2005 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

A Restriction Requirement was asserted between Group I, claims 1-17 and Group II, claim 18. Applicants affirm the election of Group I, claims 1-17 and assert that claims 19 and 20 belong in Group I. Applicants also amend claim 18 to depend from claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner rejoin and consider non-elected claim 18.

The specification was objected to based on various informalities. By this Amendment, the specification has been amended responsive to the objection. Applicants note that page 2, lines 5-6 do not recite "ink absorbing members is disposed." It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

The claims were objected to based on various informalities. By this Amendment, claims 3-10, 13 and 15-17 have been amended responsive to the objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and claims 3 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lorenz et al. (Lorenz), U.S. Patent No. 6,733,109 and claims 4, 7, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lorenz in view of Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 5,291,227. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, Lorenz fails to disclose an inkjet printer with an endless transportation belt, wherein a first recess portion has a bottom defined by the transportation belt, as recited in claim 1.

Lorenz discloses an inkjet printer with a support surface 1 with slots 9 (recess portions). When a print head 6 prints on a material 3, the ink that is spread beyond the sheet edges of the material 3 falls into the slots 9 where it is suctioned off by the suction device 12 which also serves to provide the holding suction for the sheets (col. 3, lines 38-42). Lorenz's slots 9 are thus through holes. In other words, Lorenz's slots 9 do not have a bottom defined by the support surface 1.

Accordingly, Lorenz fails to disclose all of the features recited in claim 1. Suzuki fails to overcome the deficiencies of Lorenz because Suzuki fails to disclose a transportation belt.

As discussed during the personal interview, Lorenz and Suzuki fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 4, 7, 8 and 11 because Lorenz's slots 9 are through holes and Suzuki fails to disclose a transportation belt. Accordingly, Lorenz and Suzuki fail to disclose or suggest the ink absorbing member of claims 4, 7, 8 and 11.

As discussed during the personal interview, Lorenz fails to disclose the at least one second recess portion, as recited in claim 19, because Lorenz uses a plurality of separate slots 9. Lorenz also fails to disclose all of the features recited in claim 20 because Lorenz fails to provide any disclosure with regard to stopping the printing supply mechanism until the transportation belt reaches a predetermined position.

In view of the foregoing, Lorenz fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 16 and 17 or suggest all of the features recited in claims 3 and 10 and Lorenz and Suzuki fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 4, 7, 8 and 11. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

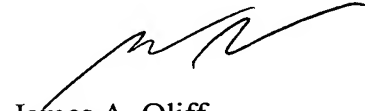
Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lorenz in view of Suzuki and Marinoff, U.S. Patent No. 4,207,578, claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lorenz in view of Marinoff, Suzuki and Kitahara et al. (Kitahara), U.S. Patent No. 6,672,705, and claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lorenz in view of Kitahara. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Marinoff and Kitahara fail to overcome the deficiencies of Lorenz and Suzuki in disclosing or suggesting the first recess portion as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, none of the applied references disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1, as well as the additional features recited claims 12-15. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte  
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/kzb

Date: September 1, 2005

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p><b>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION</b> Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
---